



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
23 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333-0023

JOHN ELIAS BALDACCI
GOVERNOR

SUSAN A. GENDRON
COMMISSIONER

Exhibit #IV.A.

TO: Members of the State Board of Education

FROM: Susan A. Gendron, Commissioner*

DATE: December 12, 2007

SUBJECT: Major Capital School Construction Program; *Concept Approval Consideration*; SAD #32 Ashland, New preK-12 school construction project.

STATEMENT OF FACT

SAD #32's Application for Major Capital School Construction Projects rated number 7 on the 2004-2005 Approved Projects List. Because of the location of the district, neither the elementary nor the high school could be combined with other schools in the county. A very thorough New vs. Renovation Study was also conducted. Both of the schools in Ashland were in very poor condition, thus renovation was not a viable option. The Department has worked with SAD #32 officials and the architect to design a school that will house the academic program while being flexible enough to meet future academic changes.

Because this is a preK-12 school, a number of special issues were considered. These ranged from student circulation in the school to how core facilities can be shared. The school will function smoothly and all age groups will receive appropriate consideration.

The School Facilities Services Team has spent considerable time on budgets, enrollments, and cost estimates prior to recommending the project proceed to the Concept Approval stage.

The new school will replace the Ashland Central School (grades K-5) and Ashland Community High School (grades 6-12), both of which will be closed.

This Concept Approval is being requested pursuant to M.R.S.A. Title 20-A, Section 15905(1).

Project Information:

Project: New PreK-12 School in Ashland
Superintendent: Dr. Gehrig Johnson
Principal: Robert Hennessey (preK-12)
Architect: Don Lewis, Lewis & Malm Architecture

Superintendent Johnson has provided the following project description statement:

The proposed new Ashland Community School will replace two facilities that have served the five communities comprising School Administrative District #32 (Ashland, Garland, Oxbow, Portage and Masardis) for the past six decades. Ashland Central School was built in 1949 and houses 156 students in grades PreK-5. Ashland High School was built in 1950 and houses 166 students. Neither of these two facilities is conducive to meeting students' educational needs due to severe structural deficiencies.

Therefore, we propose to consolidate two buildings into one school and move approximately 350 elementary and high school students under one roof. This will maximize common spaces and minimize construction costs. More importantly, there are many educational advantages and added possibilities for educating all of our elementary and secondary students in one building. The school district is committed to blending a simple yet aesthetically pleasing design in the construction of this facility, while incorporating the use of durable materials and energy efficient lighting and mechanical systems.

Being environmentally responsible is also a high priority in the construction of this building. We have incorporated environmental and conservation education initiatives where possible. Our main objective is to create a safe learning environment with optimal auditory, thermal, and visual comfort.

Project Budget Information:

Estimated Total Project Cost: \$22,057,929

Local Only Cost (no State participation): \$1,720,928

Anticipated Maine High Performance Schools Energy Grant: \$120,000

Approved for State/Local Debt Service Subsidy: \$20,217,001

CONSTRUCTION COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Construction Committee recommends that the State Board of Education approve the Concept Approval for SAD #32 for a new preK-12 school in Ashland, Maine.

COMMISSIONER RECOMMENDATION

The Commissioner recommends that the State Board grant Concept Approval to SAD #32 for a new preK-12 school in Ashland, Maine, and approve the budget as presented.